

What is claimed is:

1. A device for evacuating a container, comprising:

a nozzle for placing within the container;

a pump for moving air;

5 a separation chamber for holding liquid or particulate matter;

an air conduit operatively connecting the nozzle, the separation chamber, and the pump.

2. The device of claim 1 further comprising a housing wherein the pump is disposed within the housing.

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3. The device of claim 1 wherein the separation chamber is disposed within the housing.

4. The device of claim 1 wherein the nozzle is removable.

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5. The device of claim 2 wherein the nozzle is foldable such that in a first position the nozzle extends downwardly and outwardly from the housing and in a second position the nozzle rests against the housing.

20 6. The device of claim 5 wherein the housing includes a top surface, a bottom surface and at least one side wall between the top surface and the bottom surface, the bottom surface having a recessed portion receiving the nozzle in the second position.

25 7. The device of claim 6 wherein the separation chamber is disposed within the housing and wherein one of the at least one side walls comprises a sight for viewing the separation chamber.

8. The device of claim 1 further comprising a motor associated with the pump and a power source operatively connected to the motor for powering the pump.

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9. The device of claim 2 further comprising fastener for fastening the housing under a surface.

10. The device of claim 2 further comprising an accessory to allow increased distance
5 between the container and the housing comprising:
an accessory housing;
an accessory nozzle operatively connected to the accessory housing; and
an accessory air conduit operatively connected to the nozzle and the accessory nozzle.

10 11. The device of claim 10 where the nozzle is removable.

12. The device of claim 10 wherein the accessory housing includes a non-skid material for placement on a surface.

15 13. The device of claim 10 wherein the accessory nozzle is foldable.

14. The device of claim 1 further comprising a housing having a base and an arm.

15. The device of claim 14 wherein the nozzle is operatively connected to the arm and
20 rotatable with respect to the arm.

16. The device of claim 15 wherein the arm movably extends outwardly and upwardly from the base.

25 17. The device of claim 1 further comprising a sight within the housing for viewing the separation chamber.

18. The device of claim 1 further comprising a filter operatively connected between the second air conduit and the pump.

19. A method of evacuating air from a container, comprising:
providing a device comprising a nozzle for placing within the container, a first air conduit
operatively connecting the nozzle and a separation chamber, and a second air
conduit operatively connected to the separation chamber and a pump;
5 inserting the nozzle into the container;
evacuating air from the container;
sealing the container with a first seal.

20. The method of claim 19 further comprising evacuating air from a portion of the
10 container between a first seal and a second seal, sealing the second seal, and removing the
nozzle from the container.

21. The method of claim 19 further comprising placing items within the container prior
to evacuating air from the container.

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22. The method of claim 19 wherein the container is a sealable plastic bag.

23. The method of claim 21 further comprising providing a rigid container for storing
items, placing them within the rigid container, and placing the rigid container within the
20 sealable bag.

24. A system for storage, comprising:
a reusable plastic bag having at least one seal;
a device for evacuating air comprising a nozzle for placing within the plastic bag;
25 a first air conduit operatively connecting the nozzle and a separation chamber and a second
air conduit operatively connecting the separation chamber and a pump; and
a rigid container placeable within the plastic bag.

25. The system of claim 24 wherein the nozzle is foldable.
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26. The system of claim 24 wherein the at least one seal comprises a first seal formed by a first set of first and second fastening strips; a second seal formed by a second set of first and second fastening strips; a gap between the first seal and the second seal sufficiently large such that the first seal is independent of the second seal and the bag is reusable and sealable even if one of the plurality of seals is damaged.

27. The system of claim 24 wherein the rigid container comprises a first portion and a second portion; the first portion having a first fastening rim and the second portion having a second fastening rim.

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28. The system of claim 27 wherein each of the fastening rims has a plurality of protrusions and a plurality of recesses for interlocking.

29. The system of claim 27 wherein the first interlocking fastening rim includes at least one ridge and the second interlocking fastening rim has at least one depression for mating the first fastening rim with the second fastening rim.

30. The system of claim 24 wherein the at least one seals are positioned substantially below a top edge of the bag to allow for the top of the bag to be folded back to reduce splatter on an outer surface of the bag.

31. The system of claim 24 wherein the rigid container further comprises an opening for providing access to an air evacuation device.

32. A reusable plastic bag comprising:
a cavity for storing items formed from opposite first and second side walls;
a first and second seal, each seal formed from first and second fastening strips on opposite side walls;
a spacing between the first seal and the second seal sufficiently large such that the first seal is independent of the second seal and the bag is reusable as it is sealable even if one of the plurality of seals is damaged.

33. The reusable plastic bag of claim 32 further comprising a top portion above the first and second seal for providing a cuff for protecting outside surfaces of the side wall from splatter.

5 34. A method of using a plastic bag, comprising:
providing a reusable plastic bag comprising

(a) a cavity for storing items formed from opposite first and second side walls;
(b) at least one seal, each of the at least one seal formed from first and second fastening strips on opposite side walls;

10 (c) a top portion above the at least one seal;
cuffing the top portion of the bag;
filling the bag;
uncuffing the top portion of the bag; and
sealing the at least one seal.

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35. The method of claim 34 wherein the at least one seal includes a first seal and a second seal.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein the reusable plastic bag further comprises

20 (d) a spacing between the first and second seal sufficiently large such that the first seal is independent of the second seal and the bag is reusable as it is sealable even if one of the first seal and the second seal is damaged.

37. The method of claim 34 further comprising evacuating air from the bag.

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38. The method of claim 34 further comprising placing the bag in a rigid device comprising a first side wall and a second side wall, a top of the first side wall and the second side wall forming a top perimeter that bows outward, and wherein the step of cuffing includes folding the top portion of the bag over the top perimeter of the rigid
30 device.

39. A reusable plastic bag comprising:

a cavity for storing items formed from opposite first and second side walls, the opposite

first and second sidewalls having a top end and an opposite bottom end;

at least one seal formed from first and second fastening strips on opposite side walls spaced

5 between the top end and the opposite bottom end and at a sufficiently large enough distance from the top end such that the top end of the sidewalls are adapted to be cuffed for protecting outside surfaces of the side walls during filling of the cavity.

40. A system comprising:

10 a plastic bag having

(a) a cavity for storing items formed from opposite first and second side walls;

(b) at least one seal, each of the at least one seal formed from first and second fastening strips on opposite side walls;

(c) a top portion above the at least one seal;

15 a rigid device comprising a first side wall and a second side wall, a top of the first side wall and the second side wall forming a top perimeter that bows outward for folding the top portion of the bag over the top perimeter of the rigid device.

41. The system of claim 40 wherein the top portion of the plastic is at least an inch in
20 length.